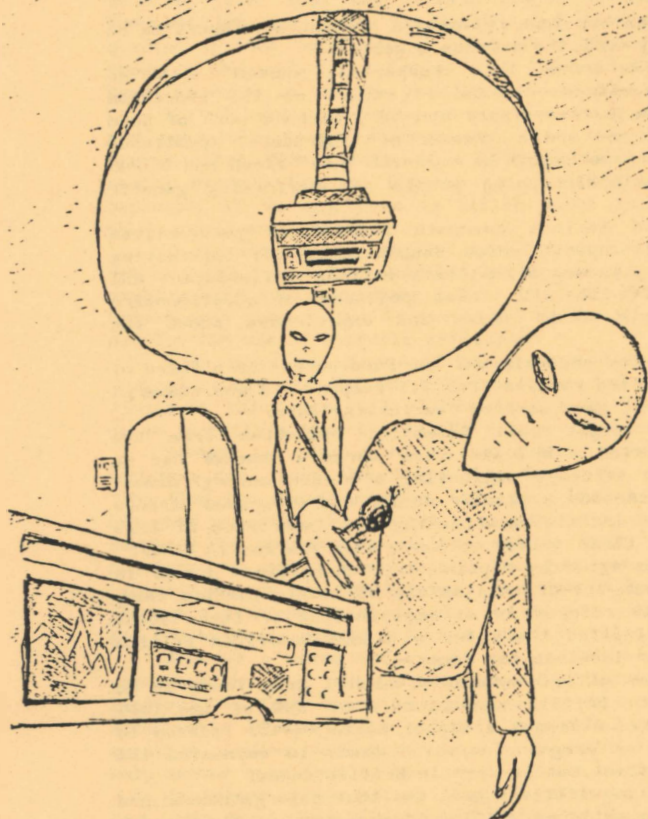


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

134

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DEC 1988



Happy
Christmas

Jenny Randles

NORTHERN UFO NEWS SUBS: £6 for SIX

EDITOR:- JENNY RANGLES COVER:- ANDREW EVANS (BUFORA)

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J. R. Comments... *The abduction phenomenon is still the subject of great excitement (or hysteria) in the USA. Both "Communion" and "Intruders" were major best-sellers. In Britain, of course, we are still relatively untouched by all this - but there are growing signs that times are changing fast.*

The Fund for UFO Research has just released a preliminary report on an important survey conducted by OMNI, the science magazine.

In its December 1987 issue this respected journal with an international circulation featured a detailed report on the abduction scene, focusing largely on the extraordinary and very sincere work of Budd Hopkins. As you will know if you are a reader of "Intruders" (published recently in the UK by Sphere paperbacks) he believes that 'flesh and blood' aliens are visiting the earth, kidnapping people and performing genetic experimentation.

Whilst the article did include comments from other perspectives (including an interview with myself which demonstrated the interesting differences in the way the phenomenon manifests between a flamboyant USA and a much more conservative UK) it also published a questionnaire requesting readers to submit their views and experiences about the abduction.

Over 1200 were received for analysis and the Fund worked on a third of these. They have provided detailed results from 111 respondents who answered a combination of questions that give us some fascinating data.

The 111 are what we might call potential abductees from the respondents. Of them 75% reported a UFO (in other words a quarter had no recollection of this, despite evidence suggesting a hidden memory). Almost half had missing time as a clue and a similar number had witnessed strange 'alien' figures when they were children, stressing the importance of this neglected factor in potential CE 4s (close encounters of the fourth kind).

The physical evidence so noted by Hopkins (viz unexplained scars) is rarely evident in UK cases, but 31% of this mainly US sample claimed them. However, a larger number (42%) referred to strange phobias or fears about locations as a factor that implied there was a hidden memory. In British cases this is certainly more evident in the records.

The post experience dream of UFO occupants, which I have found to be the most significant clue in British cases, occurs in 39% of the OMNI sample, so is again demonstrated. Although a higher number (44%) referred to dreams about strange babies or pregnancies, which seems to emphasise the American obsession with this point but is rare in British cases.

Perhaps the most interesting little nugget was that a large number had been prone to sleepwalking as children (31%) or had even gone missing for unexplained periods from their family (15%).

As might be expected beliefs about the UFO subject were very strong amongst this 'abductee' sample. 61% accepted UFOs as real, probably extraterrestrial. 64% believed in the reality of some abductions. And 71% had read at least some of the UFO literature. Many had claimed to be uneasy recalling things when filling out the questionnaire (37%).

In the end the Fund drew up a list of high, medium and low probabilities of respondents having had an abduction locked up inside of them. These were distributed across the sexes as follows: - High M (1.5%) F (8.2%) Medium M (10%) F (13.3%) Low M (33.5%) F (33.5%) - Giving, as you can see, a 45% M and 55% F split. Therefore most potential abductees are women (and young women) whereas around two-thirds of ordinary UFO witnesses tend to be male.

The consequences of this study are fascinating, for it offers hints about how to spot likely candidates for abductees amidst UFO reporters. It is a common school of thought (and my experience in the field strongly endorses this) that the British dearth of abductions is artificial. Many hundreds are now known in the USA, and from population figures around a quarter of that total (ie at least 100) should be known in the UK. But, as shown by the work I did for my book "Abduction" (published in paperback by Headline early in the new year by the way) the total is far less than this.

Why? I suspect because we are not doing what the Americans are doing and subjecting every witness who fits the profile (eg female, with odd dreams about UFOs, a fear of a certain location and dim recollection of seeing strange bedroom figures as a child) to the harrowing process of hypnosis. If we did, there is little doubt in my mind that dozens of new CE 4 cases would appear.

There are reasons why we are not doing this, of course. We do not, as yet, have the qualified psychologists and psychiatrists working on this problem as a taxing mystery rather than a quick way to line their pockets. Only when a proper team is recruited should it even be contemplated that we develop the use of hypnotic regression.

I am aware of some work being carried out with necessary secrecy by medical people who are not UFO experts and whose results appear to totally vindicate this opinion. I gather they have so far discovered more CE 4 cases in Britain than all the UK groups combined!

However, we also have a fundamental choice before us. We know that hypnosis can cloud the issue. Alan Godfrey's dramatic revelation on ITVs "The Time, The Place" earlier this year when he and I discussed abductions has gone unnoticed by British researchers (at least I have been waiting for somebody to comment on it but nobody has!) He said that, whilst he is convinced he saw a real object from his patrol car, he suspects that his hypnotic memory was nothing more than the reliving of another person's story through his enhanced imagination because in the months between the sighting and the hypnosis sessions he had read several books which featured CE 4s.

Alan is a brave and honest man, and also one of the highest rated UFO abductees in the world (he made it into Dr Eddie Bullard's 'Top 50' listing). The fact that the stimulus for his 'on-board' experience is now accepted by him as quite probably a previously read case MUST cause us to question whether widespread use of hypnotic regression in Britain would help answer questions or confuse the issue so much it would pose many more.

An urgent symposium on the abduction is VITAL in this country so we can learn from these things and heed the lessons of the USA and decide a structure for our future research into this fascinating topic.

NEWS ROUND-UP:



:: The spate of UFO epics set to hit the screens (at least in the USA) certainly includes "Communion: The Movie", and a new one masterminded by Mel Torme's son Tracy who is a UFO investigator. This is a dramatisation of the controversial November 1975 Travis Walton abduction from Snowflake, Arizona.

:: My mail bag continues to bring in 'interesting' items, including one from a man who professes to be an expert in "supernormal hypnotism, parapsychology, brainwashing and black magic". He is a researcher into "voodoo, vampires, werewolves, teleportation and UFOs" but remains "jobless in

a Muslim country full of murderers and fools". He knows how to catch a UFO and says; "I definitely believe we can enter a UFO, photograph it, trace the instruments and capture a deadly flying saucer if we meet the right people. I would depend largely on psychic powers and necromancy." Pages more stuff follows where he describes his plans to film the planet being formed, lead an expedition into the hollow earth and his great desire to be directed to the current abode of Dr J Allen Hynek. He also wants to meet "one of the world's leading experts on space research and UFOs" (no - sadly he didn't mean me! - It's Rex Dutta). And finally requests I place the following advert in here... "Wanted: A few brave, young European girls who must have no job and who can volunteer for an experiment to help capture a UFO".... Any volunteers (or anyone you would like to send out to him!)

CONFERENCE TIME:



Congratulations to NLUFOIG for their splendid organisation of the one day conference in Morecambe on 23 October. It was packed with illustrative and informative talks by Philip Mantle on the Barnsley photo case, Peter Hough on the Ilkley Moor entity photo, Granville Oldroyd on his dogged research into the October 1912 Sheerness 'UFO', David Clarke on Celtic mythology and abductions, Ian Cresswell on Jung and UFOs, and Jenny Randles on the CE 4 in Britain. See what you missed if you were not one of the 50 or so there! MUFORA would also like to thank those 'chosen few' who attended their 25th 'Birthday Party' on 12 November at the University Chaplaincy in Manchester. Lets hope more events will follow and you will be pleased to hear that IUN in Yorkshire, MUFORA in Manchester, MUFORC in the Midlands and SPI in Scotland have each agreed to host a BUFORA lecture - and these will be added (in mid month Saturday evening slots) to the 10 that BUFORA always stage on the first Saturday of the month in London. The dates will be part of the 1989-1990 BUFORA schedule starting next September, but before then (on 15, 15 & 16 July 1989) BUFORA will be staging the bi-annual 'International Conference' at the London Business School. This is a must for all serious ufologists. More details of all these events in future issues.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES:



Media attention for the 'mystery circles' has been interesting this year. Most impressive was "Riddle of the perfect rings", a major full page story in the *Observer* (14 Aug). Cleverly written as an odyssey by reporter Andrew Stephen he moves through the various players trying to understand the rings. First stop was Professor Archie Roy, the astronomer from Glasgow University in a tizzy; "I simply don't understand these circles". Then, on a trek with Colin Andrews (whose wife is reported to be rather perturbed at the way they are taking over their life and their house). Andrews, naturally stressed they were unexplained. As did army men and others that the intrepid journalist spoke to. All the time no hint of any UFO link or Andrews regular presentations for FSR had seeped through, but then the man from Fleet Street found Dr Terence Meaden (who-according to Andrews-had been a member of his Circles team until he had suddenly "solved the mystery" and quit - a use of selective facts and questionable representation that FSR have yet to better). Dr Meaden, as you may know, has been investigating these rings longer than anyone (since they first regularly appeared in 1980) and has

ALWAYS regarded them as induced by a new form of stationary whirlwind, as anyone can demonstrate by studying his many articles in the scientific literature. Of course, as Andrews pointed out, Terence Meaden's wind theory is to circle believers so much hot air. But then, from discussions with Dr Meaden and BUFORAs Paul Fuller the Observer soon became pretty convinced. No UFOs. No mysterious energies. Just unusual activity by vortices of air and a lot of "instinct to make our lives exciting, relevant (and) crucial." As for Colin Andrews. He could not have the final word, because his wife had allegedly "dragged him off to Ibiza". However, the Observer did carry a letter the following week from one of many readers sceptical that the wind can cause such sharply defined patterns - but then, as with most who are understandably cautious, they do not understand the full basis of Dr Meaden's extensive thesis. I'm not totally sure HE understands it either! Who admits to watching the recent cult children's TV series Toksvig? The reason I ask in tiny (hopefully invisible) type is to (blush blush) admit that your editor was not irresponsible for certain bits (including the UFO item), 'Script Consultant' is what TVS laughingly credited - but whilst I do admit to having something to do with how the words appeared, the visual images and the high silliness quotient of the show were now't to do with me - honest!

A MUSICAL CLOSE ENCOUNTER:



This exclusive offer comes courtesy of rock band CE IV (no prizes for guessing where that title comes from). Readers of "Abduction" will know a bit about them (or see my article "Cosmic Rock" last year). Now they have launched their first album - which is truly incredible. Entitled "Abduction" (again - no prizes for guessing etc) this is a one hour head trip that involves words, special effects and their unique blend of symphonic synthesised rock. It is based on a hypothetical abduction relived under hypnosis and introduces new ideas and speculations about the phenomenon that are realistic and will keep you guessing. Apart from all that it is superbly recorded and great stuff in pure musical terms, even if you don't give a fig about abductions. They say the thing to do is turn down the lights, switch up the volume, sit back and head for the inner space/outer space fantasy that makes up a typical close encounter of the fourth kind. It's amazing how they retain the eerie sense of mystique through the powerful feel of a concept album. I've played it over and over and think it's great. Available on high quality dolby stereo cassette in a special case at £6 (inc p & p) (cheques/pos payable to CE IV Music) Write to: - CE IV Music 102 Ferness Oval Glasgow Scotland G21 3SE

FOR YOUR PERUSAL:



Major articles elsewhere

A couple of newish items to report, plus some bad news. The bad first; although at this point it is only strong, unconfirmed rumours from an impressive source. Apparently after approaching 40 years, FATE, the only news-stand paranormal journal worth a light is in danger of folding for good. The editor Jerry Clark has left, but for more happy, personal reasons (he has just got married - congratulations!). Let's hope FATE do pull through - or at least have some kind of post-mortem survival.

Meanwhile, CHALLENGE (53 Brook Terrace, Darlington, Co Durham DL3 6PJ) is a new critical review of the paranormal (13pp, A4, £3.75 for 4 issues - cheques/pos to 'A.T. Feeney'). Difficult to tell its fortunes from one issue, but it is reminiscent of the early pioneering days of ASSAP (about which it has some valid criticism). Psychic questing gets a blast too. Given the support I think this could be a worthwhile publication.

Plodding on as usual is the irreverent CNK- Cosmology Newslink - now older than me (well almost!) and the only amateur publication that looks amateur. But that's part of the fun. It has a strong UFO element and breaks the law most of the time by reprinting whole photocopies of recent major articles on the paranormal from the press - then claims "world copyright reserved" on its back page! But it's a nice read and never dull. No price quoted but the address is: - 16 Newton Green Gt Dunmow Essex CM6 1DU

BUFORA Bulletin July (!) (with subs from 16 South Way Burgess Hill RH15 9ST) Nicely typeset, but the delays between issues in 'compensation' are very frustrating to some people. Only real piece of note this issue is Andy Roberts with a good retrospective look at foo fighter stories.

MUFON Journal (\$30, US, for 12, 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas 78155-4099 USA) One of the best (and still the cheapest) ways to keep up to date with happenings in the USA. Each issue always has lots of worthy content and it's impossible to mention all the goodies. Here are a few recent highlights; Jul (Dr Peter Rojewicz on the continuum between NDEs, COBEs and UFO encounters), Aug (Dr Michael Persinger on correlations between cancer, depression and UFO flaps) Oct (Dr Barry Downing on God and UFOs and Ralph Noyes writing about why he thinks the corn circles important). Excellent mag

Orbiter (No price quoted, monthly, 43 Harrison St Reading MA 01867 USA) Unpretentious broadsheet that is not afraid to be sceptical when necessary (something of a rarity in American UFO circles). The Aug, Sep and Oct issues feature important reports on the amazing Gulf Breeze photo saga which MUFON defends and CUFOS regards as a hoax (Orbiter sides with CUFOS), plus its real strength (bringing reproductions of new US press pieces on serious modern UFOs). Also a critical report on a recent best-selling CE 4 story that is brave in its republication given its content. First rate journal.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT:



The Black Alchemist by Andrew Collins 1988 416pp Heavily Illustrated
ABC Books PO Box 189 Leigh-on-sea Essex SS9 1NF £4.95 Paperback

The latest offering from Andy Collins self publishing outlet is far and away his best so far. Superb presentation, oodles better than most so called 'professional' outfits and with a devastating cover. A darn good read too, if you like 'true life' occult mysteries in the style of Stephen King. If such things guarantee best-sellerdom (and who knows?) then this must be a hit. Of course, if you are a teensy bit inclined towards your books being credible, then you could have a few problems. More of the usual 'Green Stone', 'Eye of Fire' fare (though much better written) with the old fashion 'quests' for buried treasure, searches for dark influences and psychic messages. Here we are told the shocking 'secrets' of last Autumn's hurricane - which tore across Southern England... some sort of demonic 'she-wolf' image, according to the dreams of quest fraternity members like Gaynor

Sunderland (who apparently does not mind risking the ridicule such ideas will doubtless bring, even though she tried to get "Abduction" banned from the stores fearing harm to her reputation). I will let you figure out the pieces for yourself and can promise you will enjoy the search for the 'Black Alchemist's dastardly deeds. Whether you regard it as supernatural fact, fiction or something else, it's a ripping yarn. Those who recall Andy as a superb field investigator into significant CE 4 cases may wonder what on earth he has come to (or, indeed, as someone has already speculated, ponder why the questers were involved in a truckload of CE 4s rarely seen since they moved into this new field). I do not believe this is because those CE 4s were 'made up', or that the new stories are fabrications. I suspect the answer is more profound and may have a lot to say about the way reality can be a product of those who experience it. In the meantime suspend belief and read for yourself... And I can't wait for more. How about - 'the amazing secrets of why it rained last Thursday'? (You see... these new Pleiadean 'sprinter' UFOs have only one toilet and... well, never mind)

UPDATE: SILENT VULCAN DOWNED?

Reader Robert Moore comments on recent stories about F-19 'Stealth' misidentifications. He notes: "Some Vulcan features are inconsistent. Most obviously the large size reported in the sightings when the F-19 is believed to be a mere 15 metres long. An option is the refuelling tanker aircraft. These appear slow moving and silent, due to the great height at which these aircraft fly. The common 'delta' shape could be suggested by the aircraft lighting lay-out or perceptual filling (or the fact that a V formation involving smaller jets being refuelled by the tanker are also present - JR). I would be interested in any comments".

I took this up with David Clarke who has investigated the South Yorkshire sightings in February 1988 and he still believes these were 'Stealth' tests not refuelling exercises, because local bases did not know about them. However, I suspect the refuelling - if there was one - came from a base down south and may have been unignosted. On 28 Sep the Sheffield Star quoted David at length headed "UFO was secret fighter".

Meanwhile, the Wolverhampton Express carried news that Stafford MP Bill Cash had got his answer from the MoD on his demands for an enquiry into the V and triangular UFO spate (which hit the north midlands at the same time). Defence Minister Roger Freeman cheerfully announced that the sightings were "probably due to an increase in activity of aircraft waiting to land at Birmingham Airport". Mr Freeman (who I suppose we should also believe has the tooth fairy as a grannie) was the source of fascinating non-quotes on Central TV about the Rendlesham Forest case in 1986 (basically that it couldn't have been anything because the air force didn't investigate it, and if it had have been something they would have done!).

Bill Cash is obviously not so easily 'bluffed'. Four days later on 14 Oct he was quoted in the Staffordshire Newsletter. They said; "All Mr Freeman could come up with was an almost laughable 'exceptionally busy airport'". Mr Cash added; "The question is how could it be civil aircraft? There are some cranks in the world but these were reliable people who actually saw things.. The reply did not tell us very much." As usual. Mr Cash requested further reports (does he know that IDENTICAL stories have come from South Yorkshire and Cheshire too? - if not I have asked the paper to forward details) and said; "It's like any other enquiry, you have to take it in steps." But he intends going further. We wish him luck.

Meanwhile, in November the USAF finally admitted that the 'Stealth' fighter (curiously now called the F-17?) and the equivalent MUCH LARGER V shaped bomber REALLY exist! they have been test flying since 1981. The few press glimpses so far are more triangular than earlier impressions - exactly like most of the UFO witness descriptions in fact. (What a coincidence!) There are still some problems, notably the sightings back in 1978 of 'Silent Vulcan' and 'Manta Ray' UFOs (see for instance my book 'The Pennine UFO Mystery' - Grafton, 1983). But there is little doubt in the mind of any serious UFO researcher that these recurrent UFO sightings of very similar design MUST be earth technology of an unconventional nature; and therefore by deduction secret flights of military aircraft over Britain.

MEDIA MATTERS: -

A look at UFOs in the public eye

Eric Morris at CUFOSC has been in the firing line. Firstly, on 5 Oct, the *Crewe Chronicle* reported sensibly on how he was investigating the South Cheshire and Shropshire sightings but that 95% of all cases are IFOs. Some interest from the MoD followed (THEY called HIM for details at one point!) Two weeks later the same paper reported how "Claims about UFOs are being over exaggerated". The infamous debunkers OSEAP (erstwhile UFO group FUFOR of Crewe) have resurfaced after years of silence (although they made a ten second appearance at the ITV Telethon event at Jodrell Bank to criticise NUN for its 'lurid, irresponsible' covers!). They claim Eric's conservative 5% unexplained is a gross exaggeration and use the piece to lay into BUFORA as a group "that presents itself as a dedicated undertaking". They add that the UFO phenomenon is not as mysterious as Eric Morris makes out and "the majority of the organisations involved in its investigation leave a lot to be desired in objectivity"... Hmm, yes, I can think of one - can't you?

However, Eric then scored a hat-trick of own goals by associating himself with the ever faithful *Sunday Sport* (13 Nov) where it was proclaimed that "(Prince) Charles is really a lonely alien". Of course, I know you can easily be presented out of context in this rag and the only sane course is NOT to talk to them - as NUN readers should have figured out by now. The double page article is based on extensive quotes from Eric - some of which presumably have some proximity to what he actually said.

For example; "(Charles) is very pale looking... His eyes are projecting, icy, staring... I've come across a lot of cases where aliens had chins like (his)." He then cites the 'Prince Charles plane buzzed by a UFO' farce from 1986 - which again, if he reads his NUN, he would know was beyond doubt a bright meteor! However, Eric is quoted as adding; "That has never really been explained". And so it goes on, and on, and on, with the conclusion that Prince Charles came here via a UFO from outer space.

I will be glad to give Eric the right of reply, but this did seem an incredibly dumb interview to give. Of course, we all do it from time to time. *The People* (23 Oct) had a major spread "Our secret army against the aliens" - where Michael Hanson and Mark Birdsall of YUFOS are in good company speculating about the cover-up with "the largest international UFO society" - the Aetherians. Usual crashed UFO stuff. And my (I thought serious!) interview about abductions for *My Weekly* (20 Aug), ended up quoted by the West Lancashire Gazette as a tourist plug for Blackpool! - "Close Encounters abound in the racy resort - for one of the worlds leading authorities on UFOs her experience was really out of this world"... Er, oops.

BRIEF CASES:

Some current investigations

A LOOK OVERSEAS

A few fascinating cases from abroad have come in from readers of my (surprisingly) successful book "The UFO Conspiracy" (currently in its third paperback edition). I thought it appropriate to round them up: -

IRELAND... Michael, is a farmers teenager from a village near Newry. The history of sightings in the area began toward the end of World War II when his father lived in a 200 year old country house. One day he heard a buzzing sound and went out to discover a strange craft 'like two birds overlapping' which flew at tree-top height across his view. But since late 1987 things have really been humming. Michael was working late on the farm when a bright orange light appeared in the south. It stood out from all the helicopters he is used to seeing because it flew so erratically. After notifying his father he was permitted to go into the fields and watch it for 20 minutes with binoculars. Then, suddenly, two helicopters flew out of the sky behind him and swooped over towards it (about 8 miles away). It was now seen to be far brighter than the choppers and moving away at such a speed to outpace them. It was never seen as anything but a bright light. (MUFORA think there is a slim possibility this was the planet Jupiter). Various other 'gliding' lights have been seen, but these are probably either satellites or some of the very common aerial activity over this troubled part of the kingdom.



MALAYSIA... The sighting took place on a sunny, windy day in 1983 in Selangor. The witness (then age 12) was flying kites with friends when they saw a classic 'saucer' high in the sky, which appeared to be descending towards them. Their immediate thought was a 'weather balloon' but it soon was most apparent that this was impossible. The object was very low now and rotating rapidly. It was silvery, like aluminium in colour and flashed periodically as it reflected the sun on rotation. At first it had been tilted but at its lowest point it was retaining a more level pose. The witness notes that the area of sighting was surrounded by high tension cables and had a power station at its base. He believes that this was relevant to the manifestation of the UFO, according to a TV documentary (by Brad Steiger) that he saw AFTERWARDS. A request for further information brought no response; although the letter indicated a strong will to believe in extra-terrestrials. The case has been forwarded to researcher Ahmad Jamaludin.

THE CE 4 DILEMMA: - TO HYPNOTISE OR NOT?

CANADA... The witness, Jackie, currently aged 25 and unemployed (although with beauty treatment qualifications and other evidence of high intelligence and artistic interest), presently resides in Shropshire. She is English but was living in Amherst, Nova Scotia, at the time of the sighting (in 1979). Three

separate events are involved and each occurred in the vicinity of a nearby baseball field ("Jerry's Ball Park"). On the first two occasions she was with a girlfriend, C, and on the third with another B. The first two do not involve anything more spectacular than lights. Two 'stars' moving side by side (apparently indistinguishable from aircraft although the nearest airport was 60 miles away at Halifax). The other seems to have been nothing more than a bright meteor which 'fell to earth'. However, the third experience (with B) is more impressive. It was late evening, cool with a



clear sky. A peculiar 'golden' star was seen hanging low on the horizon. As Jackie and B watched this it dropped down vertically very fast and then began to move towards them. As it flew overhead it was seen as a triangular shape that was dark grey on the underside & studded with green lights. This was not very large. At no point were the two young women afraid, but there is a curious effect reported by Jackie. "There seems to be a memory gap... We saw the light drop and move towards us, and we saw it overhead flying away... But I do not recall the pieces inbetween". Another 'clue' to possible deeper aspects of this case is: - "I find it strange we did not rush home and tell anyone - I don't think we even thought of it... This is only something I have realised as odd in the years since". Even from these hints I suspect Budd Hopkins would immediately recommend hypnosis, but there are other facets. For instance, her friend B refuses to even answer letters about the sighting and has either consciously forgotten it or appears to want to do so. She still lives in Nova Scotia and is a regular correspondent with Jackie on everything BUT the 1979 UFO. Furthermore, since the age of about 9 (ie well BEFORE this encounter) Jackie has regularly dreamt of UFOs. In these recurrent dreams she is "always surprised by how big they are and how they seem to defy gravity... (but) I feel I know these craft and the way they move. Also there is a feeling - an atmosphere of conflict - not violence, just inevitability - something which must be decided. I am sorry this must sound vague and odd". Indeed it does, but it is exactly the sort of thing reported by other 'hidden' abductees - which Jackie herself seems to suspect she may be. She has read my recent SHE article on American CE 4 research and so cannot be termed 'uncontaminated'. On the other hand her background (father a retired doctor, mother a midwife) and attitude ("It is so easy for logic and self doubt to creep in when a memory is old and vague and unconfirmed by my friend") are both very impressive.

This case presents a perfect illustration of the dilemmas we face with regards to CE 4 research. Jackie came to me APPEALING for hypnosis to try to sort out her memory. Of course, we do not have a team of qualified doctors to offer this, and none (so far as I know) in the vicinity of Shropshire. Also WOULD such hypnotic regression make her feel better or leave her more confused? There is no doubt this is precisely the sort of case that would be instantly subjected to deep hypnotic enquiry in the USA and the odds must be high that an on-board 'memory' would emerge from this. But given the witness background would that be valuable as objective information? It could easily be built from data already read, and she is clearly predisposed to expect an abduction memory. On the other hand, the clues may well point to the fact that there 'really' is one... Any views, suggestions, ideas or offers of assistance on this case would be greatly appreciated by MUFORA.

THE GREAT OCTOBER LIGHT

A large amount of press attention has been devoted to one of the most reported British cases of recent years. Of course, degree of interest is not correlated with the importance of the sighting, but it does teach a lot about the actions of some UFO 'investigators'.

The event took place on 27 October 1988 at about 03.45 hrs. Several local papers later that day reported it, without realising it was more than a regional sighting. For instance, the Birmingham Evening Mail told how West Mercia police patrols saw "a bright white light" flash across the sky. The chief inspector was quoted as having checked with West Drayton Air Traffic Control "who have said they believe the object was a satellite burning out as it returned to earth". West Drayton had the advantage of knowing that reports had been received from all over Britain (at least from Durham to Kent and down most of the East coast). This clue is an instant giveaway. But the British UFO Society's Andrew Cochrane was quoted in the Peterborough Evening Telegraph in response to local sightings of "the light with the bluish tail" that morning. Cochrane's bizarre cock up was to claim "It all sounds quite credible"; adding that it could have been a Russian Space module presently hovering over the midlands!

It was the Essex press that went to town most, largely thanks to the ever enthusiastic 'East Anglia UFO Society' investigator, Ron West. He collected 22 reports by tea-time edition of this 'white' light 'falling into the sea' and was adamant it was "definitely not a meteorite" because it was blue and meteorites are only red or white (!!). His astronomical sources were chronic, but oddly not as bad as Howard Miles, director of the British astronomical association who said the rapidly moving light was VENUS!

During that day (knowing of none of these reports) I was called by two papers. The Daily Star said they had had dozens of sightings, and briefly described them. I immediately advised that it had to be space debris (a meteor or satellite re-entry) given the details. The next morning, 28 October, they had selected just one of the dozens and given it front page prominence. "Family in UFO green beam terror". A photo of the 'stunned' west Wales mechanic Tony Silvestri was there and he was quoted as saying "it was just like a scene out of Close Encounters of the third kind".

Silvestri, his wife and 8 year old daughter were driving. "The light was very intense and went on for several seconds. It was bright green like a firework and filled the car. Even through the hype, the obvious IFO nature of the case is revealed, but the Star reported how a local RAF flight sergeant had interrogated the family and the MoD was taking it very seriously! My comments on space debris were all omitted and I was merely quoted (accurately but well out of context) as saying that there had been a lot of sightings in 1988. Also 'Dr' Richard Lawrence of the Aetherians claimed the beam of light from the UFO may demonstrate that ETs were on board!

Meanwhile Ron West had teamed up with Brenda Butler (of 'Sky Crash' fame) and the sightings of their 'UFO' (now rated a possible 'stealth'!) were rolling in. Incredible amounts of time were wasted on a case obviously explicable from first glance. Yet scattered reports continued in weekly papers all over the UK - treating it as a big deal as if unconnected with all the others. In Hertfordshire a pensioner described the light accurately - but "UFO enthusiast Ian Holden said he thought it sounded like a genuine sighting of aliens... Its the sort of data we need to hear."

The other paper that had interviewed me on the 27th was the Kent and Sussex Courier. On 4 November "Jenny Randalls - investigator for the

Burgess Hill based group BUFORA" was quoted at length: - "there was no doubt the lights were not caused by a UFO, as UFO sightings are extremely localised and this phenomenon was quite spectacular and seen over a wide area...whether it was a meteorite or a satellite it was miles up in the sky". Even Howard Miles now changed his mind and withdrew the venus solution. He confirmed "a brilliant blue fireball went from south to east - and ended up in the north sea..It crossed the sky in two or three seconds".

Congratulations to this small paper (with a 44,000 circulation) for being the only one in Britain to produce a definitive article which accurately reported sightings and the true explanation of the great light.

As for others, such as the Daily Star, and the UFO investigators who failed to recognise the simple clues - get back to the drawing board!

In Essex on 10 November trusty Ron West returned; "UFO man rejects meteor claim" - insisting that the 'theory' was an official "cover up"! "They do not want the public to know" he said, but I think they do - at least they know about Ron West...And as we go to press Andrew Cochrane in Peterborough is also back on the job (21 Nov). He has solved the case... "Mystery UFO was a comet" .

Having informed the Smithsonian Institute in the USA he wonders if it may be a new one. Perhaps they will now name such an amazing object after all the UFO investigators who got carried away - How about Comet Dumbo?

A VIEW ON THE SKY By Gary Anthony



Saturn is only observable during November in the Western twilight. After that it is too near the sun. Jupiter is most spectacular throughout nearly all the darkness hours. It will be found near the Pleiades and sets around 05.00 by late December. On the evening of 20 December it is near the moon. This planet is bright enough to be a likely source of UFO reports this winter. Mars is also quite bright ("terra-cotta coloured"), below the square of Pegasus, setting at 01.00 in December. However, the brightest object in the early hours is Venus (rising around 04.30 in November and two hours before the sun in December). On frosty mornings watch out for it being mistaken as a large disc since it can seem 'huge' when magnified by ice crystals. The only major meteor shower in December is the Geminids, between the 12th and 15th (peaking on the 13th). Watch the north-east sky and up to 50 meteors per hour might be seen around the maximum point.

CASE 8819 IUN 17 February 1988 Huddersfield, W. Yorks Andy Walmsley C 3-6

Shift worker at papermill travelling by car at 06.15 hrs saw a series of LITS over trees in south reported them to police. Adopted very belligerent attitude because MoD refused to be interested when he called and he seemingly has it in for ufologists. IUN concluded the case was probably stellar objects, possibly through a temperature inversion layer.

CASE 8820 IUN 10 July 1988 Sowerby Bridge, W. Yorks Andy Walmsley A 5-8

Elderly but perceptive witness reported seeing a light orange football shoot across his field of view from his lounge window at 21.00hrs. In view just a second and seemingly compressing a bow wave of air and trailing wisps of greasy smoke which quickly dissipated. IUN conclude it was a meteor (see very similar MUFORA case 8817, 20 July, 22.00, at Chadderton - NUN 133)

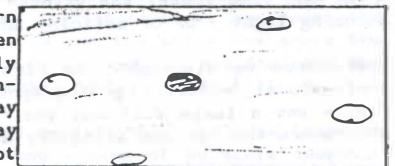
CASE 8821 Jim Ross 18 July 1988 Sth Shields, Tyne & Wear C 4-4

Unfortunately the witnesses to this case required anonymity and the investigator has so far been unable to obtain more details. It is always the good cases that slip away! The woman driver of a taxi firm picked up a customer at 03.00 and drove him along the coast road south towards Marsden. To their left (east) is the sea (with a caravan park and lighthouse), inland (south west) is a golf course. The bright light came in from the sea and was described as "saucer-shaped, 80ft long, with red lights on the top and bottom and a string of white lights around its rim. The roads were deserted and it followed us until I stopped the car near the Marsden Inn at Whitburn. It was hovering above us at a height of 30ft. It was definitely some sort of machine because we could see grey metal on top. But the weirdest thing was the way it made no noise. Everything was completely silent. We got out of the car for a closer look and it then backed off before disappearing inland over the golf course. "They drove to the golf course but could not see it again. Then they reported it to the police. A police officer stated that of all the sightings they have received "this is the most dramatic...this woman and man are not crackpots and did not know each other before the incident...The whole thing is a real mystery." Sadly the local paper carried a silly cartoon with a little green man asking about MARS den. This has hardly helped the situation.

TERROR ON THE THIRD GREEN

Investigation by Ray Broderick of Hyndburn Sky Watchers Lancashire

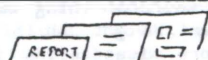
Almost everyone has become embroiled in this 'was it/wasn't it' UFO saga. It began on Wednesday 20 July 1988 - the night of the bright meteor seen at Chadderton at 22.00 (see case 8817 referred earlier). HSWL seem to think the description and timing similar, but according to the Rossendale Free Press of 30 July a man and wife were driving past Baxenden Golf Course near Accrington at about 01.30 (on the 21st?) when they saw four white lights in a ring. The car headlights dimmed and the car became reluctant to move forward. It was reported ANONYMOUSLY to the police. Both Mike Sacks and Harry Harris were then quoted appealing for the witnesses to contact them (and presumably be hypnotised). But next five burn marks suddenly appeared on the third green of the course and these were immediately linked in with the bright lights by UFO investigators and media. But, according to Ray Broderick they did not appear until Friday (although he argues that the course was not widely used so they could have been there from the previous day). From the site photos and measurements Ray took there is a central burn patch with no grass left and four satellites of annular rings (similar to the cornfield circles down south - which, note, had just been first reported for 1988 by the media). A half inch indentation occurs which Ray insists "would not be there if fuel had been sprinkled and set alight". Meanwhile the Accrington Observer quoted a 'writer' with the arch debunking group CSICOP - Hilary Evans (!!!), dismissing them as a hoax and backed up by "writer on astronomy and space - Ian Ridpath". The club competition secretary who found the marks said "If this is a hoax it is a very elaborate one" but both the club steward and club secretary were insistent they WERE hoaxed by spraying creosote on the grass...More details if the UFO witnesses ever materialise.



CASE 8822 Gavin Lindsay 5 September 1988 Prudhoe, Northumbria A 2-2

Two teenage boys aged 15 and 16 claimed in the local press to see a UFO at 21.30hrs. It was described as a long vertical cigar coloured yellow which was in view only seconds and gave the boys "quite a fright". One of their parents got them to sketch it immediately. Their sketches (done whilst separated) were identical. New BUFORA investigator, Gavin made the very long trek (nearly 60 miles) from Berwick and they failed to keep their appointment. Subsequent excuses were described as "puny" and over the phone they seemed to regard it all as very funny. One now claimed it was a flare and the other a jet plane. Not surprisingly, Gavin has written the case off as a 'semi-hoax'.

CASE HISTORIES



THE PERFECT ABDUCTION? (Part 4) MUFORA Report by Peter Hough

Case 8744 1 December 1987 Ilkley Moor, W. Yorkshire Level A (SP 9-5)

A brief recap... Philip, an ex police officer now reapplying to join the force, was walking the moors between Ilkley and East Morton on the overcast day of 1 December. At about 07.45 hrs he saw a 'small, green creature' above him on the rocks. He shouted 'Hey!'. It 'shambled' away and then stopped and turned round. He took one quick photo of it, before it disappeared round an outcrop. Philip climbed up after it and encountered a disc-like UFO behind the rocks which instantly shot up into the air. He then returned to civilisation and discovered it was 10.00 hrs instead of 08.15 as assumed. A problem with the lighting occurs here, as at 07.45 it SHOULD have been pitch dark and he ought not to have been able to film (or see) the figure. Yet the photo shows it to be daylight (as it was when the UFO took off). Whilst we would probably accept that this is because ALL the above consciously recalled detail occurred at around 09.30 hrs, not 07.45 hrs (ie AFTER the time lapse) the witness still has no recollection of it suddenly becoming light - or of noticing any sort of lighting anomaly.

Last issue we discussed the first analysis of the amazing photograph by professional wildlife photographer, Tony Marshall. His view was that the figure was a large doll and the 'white box' above the outcrop (coincident with where the box was allegedly atop the UFO) just a scratch on the film.

Four days after Peter Hough and Jenny Randles visited Tony Marshall in Sheffield Philip phoned Peter. It was late Friday night. He claimed that two middle aged men in business suits had turned up at his house and shown identity cards with Ministry of Defence on them. They had names and photos on the cards. One - 'David Jefferson' - did most of the talking - the other was 'something Davies' - who was very quiet throughout. They advised that they wished to interview Philip about his UFO sighting; although at that stage only Peter, Jenny and the two DIGAP investigators (Steve Balon and Arthur Tomlinson) knew about it. Philip described the sighting, but without mentioning the photograph. However, THEY asked HIM about it. He simply said it was 'with a friend' and they quite calmly accepted this and left. Philip's wife did confirm the men's visit - although only after some days delay.

When Philip called Peter Hough immediately after this visit he was concerned that things were getting out of hand. He became fearful for the safety of his photographic negative; which he knew was being analysed by experts (who had no details of his address or even his real name). (The MoD, incidentally, have failed to respond to several letters requesting comment on this visit or confirmation/denial of employee David Jefferson)

At 08.55 the next day (Saturday 16 January 1988), Philip called Peter again. He was even more upset than after Friday's 'MIB' visit. He alleged a phone call from Mirror Group Newspapers who had his name and details of the case. Philip said he called the paper back, but they denied having made the call. An angry Philip insisted that as only four investigators knew his name and ex-directory phone number one of us must have alerted the press. He now wanted to abort the investigation and required his negative back. This seemed decidedly suspect because the previous evening he had been commenting on the possibility of the media discovering his case, which we said was most unlikely given the few who knew about it. Now - suddenly - it had happened.

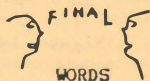
Peter had to go out, but Jenny immediately spoke to both the London and Manchester offices of the paper. Without going into detail it did seem that neither had made or received calls on a UFO story during that morning, despite Philip's conversations with their office supposedly being only minutes before Jenny rang them again. In fact the paper said they were not presently interested in any new UFO story. All this was immediately put to Philip, but he insisted that the calls HAD occurred. Yet Jenny also found his mood very different and he was easily persuaded to allow the investigation to proceed. This was the last time the media figured in the case until Steve Balon took the photo to the Daily Star six months later.

On 19 January Peter and Arthur Tomlinson took the picture to Rochdale to a screenprinting firm with extensive photographic facilities. Jenny's brother is a director here. They studied the photo and were concerned by the excess graininess, even for 400 ASA film (not evident on the other shots on the same roll of film). Their verdict was that the UFO picture could be a photo of a photo, adding that this technique was sometimes used to mask flaws that showed up in a hoax when first exposed. The rephotographing downgrades the quality enough to make them less noticeable. As for the white box above the outcrop - this was more puzzling. There was no scratch, it was insisted. The effect seemed to be some reflection off a thing really on the hillside.

A final attempt was made by way of the real professionals - KODAK in Hemel Hempstead. By phone their Peter Southerst had spoken of possible computer enhancement, but when he examined the negative his response was less encouraging. On 1 February he wrote to Peter; "(The exposure) is underexposed by at least two stops. It is usual for these films to produce grainy pictures when underexposed... I would not care to commit myself to any observation beyond saying that the film had not been interfered with after processing." The white blob, he argued, was a reflection (either internal to the lens or from a real object outside). It was NOT a rephotograph or double exposure and the print WAS a photograph of something 'real' actually on the hillside. Enhancement was not considered cost-effective because "there is insufficient detail available to enhance". This seemed the end of the line.

But what could be discovered about the 'missing time'? To be continued

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL READERS

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE?

It's year end and time for magazine renewals. For 1989 we are keeping prices at the same level (£6 for six)...but if you have part of a subscription outstanding and need to pay less - here is the sum you should contribute to ensure that you receive all of the 1989 copies... £

BUT HOLD ON! How about this for hot news to warm your winter nights. We have reached what we think a world's first agreement with the north's other great UFO journal - UFO BRIGANTIA .

NO - its definitely NOT a merger. Both magazines remain independent. But it IS a rationalisation. From January we will publish in alternate months (starting with UFO BRIGANTIA and then on with the next NORTHERN UFO NEWS in February) - so if you were to get both you would in effect have a MONTHLY UFO magazine. In addition we will liaise more closely over content. MUN will continue its function of supplying news and being an ongoing catalogue of cases. UFO BRIGANTIA has larger format and content size, so the scope for articles, letters and in-depth debate or discussion of major cases. Together you will discover the best of everything on the northern UFO scene.

We believe this alliance will give ufology a better service. BRIGANTIA normally costs £7 .Subscribing separately presently costs £13 for the two - still cheaper than most groups or journals mind you! However, if you subscribe to both magazines - TOGETHER NOW - you can do so for only £11.

Make cheques/pos payable to "NUFON" in the usual way and from January you will receive both magazines off the press as soon as they appear.

Of course, you can still resubscribe to MUN on its own for £6 - but why miss out on such a great opportunity? (If your subscription in the box above is less than £6 please just ADD £5 to that total for your new joint subscription to this great northern UFO publication alliance... Happy 1989!!

CALENDAR

BUFORA lectures at the London Business School, nr Baker St tube, 6.30-9.30pm
 7 Jan Hilary Evans "The myth of extra-terrestrial visitation"
 4 Feb Tony Cornell (S. P. R.) "How to investigate spontaneous cases"

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